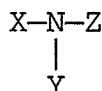


## CLAIMS

1. A method for treating or preventing acne comprising applying to skin affected by, or susceptible to, acne, a composition containing:

1) an effective amount of an alkanolamine of the formula



wherein X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl groups, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y, or Z is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group;

2) tyrosine; and

3) an effective amount of a sulfur ingredient selected from the group consisting of lipoic acid, glutathione, sulfur, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol monoacetate, sulfacetamide, and mixtures thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein composition contains from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight alkanolamine, from about 0.01% to about 6% tyrosine, and from about 0.5% to about 15% sulfur ingredient.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the alkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of ethylaminoethanol, methylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanol, isopropanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanolamine, choline, serine, and mixtures thereof, and the sulfur ingredient is lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the alkanolamine is dimethylaminoethanol.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the composition contains from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 1% to about 10% by weight lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the composition contains from about 1% to about 3% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.2% to about 0.5% tyrosine, and from about 2% to about 10% lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein a conventional acne medication containing an effective amount of an active anti-acne ingredient selected from the group consisting of an acid, an alcohol, a retinoid, a peroxide, and an antibiotic, is also applied to affected skin areas.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the conventional medication is applied to affected skin areas following administration of the alkanolamine composition.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is salicylic acid.
10. A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is tretinoin.
11. A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is benzoyl peroxide.
12. A method according to claim 7 wherein the conventional medication is applied to affected skin areas before administration of the alkanolamine composition.

13. A method according to claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises at least one adjunct ingredient selected from the group consisting an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid, a fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid, and mixtures of any of these.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition comprises glycolic acid.

15. A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition comprises ascorbyl palmitate.

16. A method for treating acne comprising

A) first applying to affected skin areas a composition comprising

1) an effective amount of an alkanolamine selected from the group consisting of ethylaminoethanol, methylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanol, isopropanol-amine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanol-amine, choline, serine, and mixtures thereof;

2) tyrosine; and

3) an effective amount of a sulfur ingredient selected from the group consisting of lipoic acid, glutathione, sulfur, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol monoacetate, sulfacetamide, and mixtures thereof; and

B) then applying to the same areas a composition comprising an effective amount of a conventional acne medication containing an active anti-acne ingredient selected from the group consisting of benzoyl peroxide, lauroyl peroxide, carbamide peroxide, ethanol, phenoxy ethanol, propanol, phenoxy propanol, resorcinol, ethyl acetate, salicylic acid, azelaic acid, fumic acid, dehydroacetic acid, pyruvic acid, urea, cetyl betaine, scymnol sulfate, cholate, deoxycholate, adapalene, tretinoin, tazarotene, erythromycin, lincomycin, clindamycin, tetracycline and meclocycline.

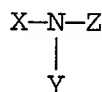
17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the alkanolamine is dimethylaminoethanol; the sulfur ingredient is lipoic acid, glutathione or a mixture thereof; and the conventional acne medication is benzoyl peroxide, salicylic acid, or tretinoin.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the composition contains from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 1% to about 10% by weight lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein the alkanolamine is applied by a pad and the conventional medication as a cream or gel.

20. A topical acne composition comprising

(a) from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of an alkanolamine of the formula



wherein X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl groups, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y, or Z is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group;

(b) from about 0.01% to about 6% by weight tyrosine; and

(c) from about 0.01% to about 10% of a sulfur-containing ingredient selected from the group consisting of lipoic acid, glutathione, and mixtures thereof.

21. A composition according to claim 20 which contains from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight lipoic acid, glutathione, and mixtures thereof.

22. A composition according to claim 21 which contains from about 1% to about 3% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.2% to about 0.5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 2% to about 7% by weight lipoic acid.

23. A composition according to claim 21 which contains from about 1% to about 3% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.2% to about 0.5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 5% to about 10% by weight glutathione.

24. A composition according to claim 20 which further comprises at least one adjunct ingredient selected from the group consisting an  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acid, a fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid, and mixtures of any of these.

25. A composition according to claim 24 which contains from about 1% to about 10% by weight glycolic acid.